

HOUSE BILL 350
By Newton

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from proceeds of the state
lottery.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated item:

() "Entering freshman" means a student entering a postsecondary institution who has not attempted any semester hours at any postsecondary institution after graduating from high school, completing high school in a home school program, or obtaining a GED;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-907, is amended by deleting the words and punctuation "To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship," and substituting instead the words and punctuation "To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman," and by deleting item (2) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(2) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than twenty-four (24) months after graduation from high school; and

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908, is amended by deleting the words and punctuation "To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship," and substituting instead the words and punctuation "To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman," and by deleting item (3) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(3) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than twenty-four (24) months after completing high school in a Tennessee home school program, obtaining a GED, or graduating from high school.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (5) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(5) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than twenty-four (24) months after graduating from high school.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916(b), is amended by deleting the word “and” at the end of subdivision (3), by deleting the punctuation “.” at the end of subdivision (4) and substituting instead the punctuation and word “; and”, and by adding the following language as new subdivision (5):

(5) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than twenty-four (24) months after completing high school in a Tennessee home school program or graduating from high school.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(a), is amended by deleting the language “To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE access grant, a freshman student” and by substituting instead the language “To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE access grant, an entering freshman student”.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(a)(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(3) Apply for a Tennessee HOPE access grant and file a FAFSA;

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(a), is amended by deleting the word “and” at the end of subdivision (5); by deleting the punctuation “.” at the end of subdivision (7) and by substituting instead the punctuation and word “; and” and by adding the following language as new subdivision (8).

(8) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than twenty-four (24) months after graduation from an eligible high school.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-4-9__.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, a student who graduated from an eligible high school, graduated from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school, completed high school in a Tennessee home school program or obtained a GED after December 1, 2003, but prior to September 15, 2004, and who met the requirements of § 49-4-907 or § 49-4-908, as applicable, for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, except that the student did not enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution by the fall semester immediately following completing high school or obtaining a GED, shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, if the student enrolls or enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution as an entering freshman within twenty-four (24) months of completing high school or obtaining a GED.

(1) If such student continues to meet all applicable requirements for the HOPE scholarship and applies for the HOPE scholarship prior to enrolling in an eligible postsecondary institution or during the first semester of attendance at an eligible postsecondary institution, then such student shall be eligible for the scholarship as an entering freshman.

(2) If such student continues to meet all applicable requirements for the HOPE scholarship and applies for the HOPE scholarship after having completed at least one (1) semester of attendance at an eligible postsecondary institution, but prior to having attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours, then the academic eligibility for the scholarship shall be the high school academic eligibility

requirements for the method by which the student completed high school or the academic eligibility requirements for those students obtaining a GED.

(3) If such student continues to meet all applicable requirements for the HOPE scholarship and applies for the HOPE scholarship after having attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours or more, then the student shall also meet the academic continuation requirements of § 49-4-911 to receive the scholarship.

(b) A student who is eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship under this section and who also meets the high school academic eligibility requirements under § 49-4-916 for a General Assembly Merit Scholar supplemental award shall be eligible for both the scholarship and the supplemental award.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, a student who graduated from an eligible high school after December 1, 2003, but prior to September 15, 2004, and who met the eligibility requirements for a Tennessee HOPE access grant under § 49-4-920, except that the student did not apply for a Tennessee HOPE access grant and file a FAFSA in the senior year of high school, shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE access grant, if the student enrolls or enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution as an entering freshman within twenty-four (24) months of graduating from an eligible high school.

(1) If such student continues to meet all applicable requirements for the HOPE access grant under § 49-4-920 and applies for the HOPE access grant prior to enrolling in an eligible postsecondary institution or during the first semester of attendance at an eligible postsecondary institution, then such student shall be eligible for the scholarship as an entering freshman.

(2) If such student continues to meet all applicable requirements for the HOPE access grant under § 49-4-920 and applies for the HOPE access grant

after having completed at least one (1) semester of attendance at an eligible postsecondary institution but prior to having attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours, then the student shall be eligible to receive the HOPE access grant until the student has attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours. If such student meets the requirements of § 49-4-920(e), then such student shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

(3) If such student attempts twenty-four (24) semester hours or more without the HOPE access grant, then the student shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, if the student continues to meet all applicable requirements for the scholarship and meets the academic continuation requirements of § 49-4-911.

(d) No retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, General Assembly Merit Scholarship, or Tennessee HOPE access grant shall be made under this section.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.